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NO.: A-68, June 17, 1955

SUBJECT: Suggested Revisions of Arabic Text of General Agreement for Technical Cooperation

TO: The American Embassy, TRIPOLI

773.5 MSP/5-2155

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Reference is made to the Department's telegram 475 and Tripoli's despatch 345 of May 21.

The following are suggested changes in the Arabic text of the Agreement:

Article I, paragraph 2: The English word "personnel" in line 1 has been translated in the Arabic by the word muwazzafīn, which really means "officials" and is used in the singular (muwazzaf) to translate the English word "official" in the second sentence ("...an official who shall be selected..."). It seems to me that the words "personnel" and "officials" should be differentiated since not all personnel might be officials. The same word is used again in the plural in the last sentence to translate the word "personnel".

Paragraph 3, lines 8-9: "...on behalf of the two Governments..." appears in the Arabic as "...by the two Governments..."

Paragraph 4: In the Arabic text the letter wāw in the word mufawwadīn should have a shaddah, not a hamzah, above it.

Article II, paragraph 1 b: The phrase "...has been or is being requested..." has been mistranslated, both words having been put in the past tense. Instead of ...allati tulabat aw al-maṭlūbah..., the Arabic should read ...allati ṭulabat aw tutlab...

Article III, paragraph 2: The word muwazzafīn (see above, Article I) again is used to translate "personnel".

Article IV - heading: The word "Exchange" would better be translated into Arabic by tahwīl instead of tabdīl. The former is the technical term used in connection with the exchange or conversion of currency.

Paragraph 1, line 1: In the Arabic text, the word taghyīr (translating the English "...be converted..") should be replaced by tahwīl

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tahwīl as above. Similarly, in the last line of the Arabic text al-taghyīr be replaced by al-tahwīl.

Memorandum of Understanding, page 6, Paragraph 2, Line 2: Eliminate commas in sentence. Replace word hatta (until) with qabl (before).

Line 3: Suggest li-ghayat instead of hatta.

Paragraph 3: mutasāwin fi i'timādihi perhaps should be mutasāwiyayn fi i'timādihima.

Paragraph 3, last line: Insert fi before hādhā al-yawm.

Memorandum of Understanding, page 7, Paragraph 2, lines 3-7: muwazzafīn problem again.

Paragraph 3, lines 1 and 2, see comment in previous memorandum, paragraph 3.

The Embassy should, at its discretion, bring the above suggestions to the attention of the Libyan Government. If, as a result, any changes in the Arabic text are made, the original text should be initialed at each change by the signatories.

~~The Department has noted that the General Agreement closes with the phrase "Done in duplicate documents, each, however, being equally authentic in the English and Arabic texts," and is of the view that the General Agreement should be drafted in English and translated into Arabic, and that the Arabic version should govern. Please explain the phrase "Done in duplicate documents" and the reasons for the General Agreement being drafted in English and Arabic.~~

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